



George  
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U.S. Senator *for* Florida

## E- NEWSLETTER

Thank you for subscribing to my weekly update - a brief summary of some of the more notable events during the last seven days. I hope you'll find this useful and informative. You can also follow my regular updates from Florida and Washington via [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your United States Senator and I look forward to hearing from you. If you want to share this newsletter with a friend, sign them up today at <http://lemieux.hilltopcms.com/subscribe>.



### **Oil Spill Crisis Update**

Evidence of the oil spill crisis in the Gulf is now washing up on our coastlines. Because British Petroleum and the federal government have failed to stop the spill, Florida must redouble its efforts to mitigate damage and recover our economic losses. Click on the video below to watch my interview where I call on the President to be an active leader on the ground in the Gulf.



The well needs to be capped and we need a clear action plan for how to handle this spill and compensate the victims of its effects. Two weeks ago, I asked BP to set up a billion-dollar revolving fund that states could access to pay for spill response and mitigation activities. To date, Congress has not received a suitable response. It is time for BP to provide immediate relief to the state and local economies already feeling the impact of this spill.



## **What You Should Do**

If you witness oil coming ashore or impacted wildlife, you should immediately contact the Deepwater Horizon Response Line at 866-557-1401. Floridians seeking help with issues related to the incident can call my office directly and toll-free at (866) 630-7106.

A website has been established for citizens to receive up-to-date information on the event at <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/site/2931/>.

The following is a link to the State Emergency Operations Center: <http://www.floridadisaster.org/eoc/Update/Home.asp>. State officials are actively monitoring the Deepwater Horizon Response as well as providing precautionary tips for residents and visitors.

## **Paying Tribute to Heroes**

Of all our country's strengths and treasures, none measure greater than the courage of our men and women in uniform. This past Sunday I attended a Memorial Day ceremony at the Sarasota National Cemetery to honor the Floridians and all Americans who have laid down their lives in the line of duty.



The sacrifice of these service men and women remind us that freedom is never free. Our nation is fortunate to have heroes willing to defend our nation, keep our families safe and protect our freedoms. The men and women of our military, and their families, deserve our everlasting gratitude on Memorial Day, and every day.

## **Job and Business Resources**

Weathering these difficult economic times can be challenging. That is why it is important you use all available resources to achieve your goals. To help work toward job recovery, our office provides information for both employers and job seekers. Employers can access information about federal agencies that provide business information and assistance on our [Business Resources Page](#). Job seekers can learn more about job fairs, workforce training, and entrepreneurial opportunities on our [Job Fairs homepage](#). Since our office began hosting and promoting job fairs, more than 10,000 people have participated including 500 employers. Through these events, more than 2,000 Floridians have found work.

### **Upcoming job events:**

[Health Care, Public and Social Services Job Fair](#) - Wednesday, June 9, 2010

[WorkNet Veterans Job Fair](#) - Wednesday, June 23, 2010

[Miami Professional and Diversity Career Fair](#) - Thursday, June 24, 2010

[Tampa Professional and Diversity Career Fair](#) - Monday, June 28, 2010

## **June Marks Start of Hurricane Season**

The 2010 hurricane season is upon us. National weather experts predict an active hurricane season and in preparation, I met with officials at the Broward County Emergency Management Agency to discuss Florida's emergency response plan. In addition to ensuring our first responders and emergency management personnel are prepared, [Floridians need to take simple steps to protect families and property](#).



In advance of the 2010 hurricane season, residents should take steps to protect their families and homes:

- Create a plan for your family;
- Prepare or update your home's emergency kit; and
- Know your local evacuation routes.

Additional tips and other helpful preparedness resources can be found at <http://www.floridadisaster.org/family/>

### **Venezuela's Ties to Terrorism**

Recently, I called on U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to review Venezuela's growing ties with U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organizations and state sponsors of terrorism. Given the Venezuelan government's ongoing actions, a determination needs to be made whether to add Venezuela to the official U.S. list of State Sponsors of Terrorism. [Click here to read my letter to Secretary Clinton.](#)

Venezuela's government actively fosters anti-U.S. hostility, there is evidence of collaboration with Colombian narcoterrorists, and their government allows Islamic radical terrorist groups to operate freely within Venezuela's borders. In addition, President Hugo Chavez is closely aligned with the dictators of Cuba and Iran, both countries which are already on the U.S. list of State Sponsors of Terrorism.

I encourage the State Department to thoroughly evaluate Venezuela's actions and determine if that country needs to be added to the official list of state sponsors of terrorism. Such a designation would place restrictions on certain financial transactions between the U.S. and Venezuelan institutions, helping to limit that government's ability to sponsor activities designed to harm our country.

### **Casework Corner**

As your senator, one of my primary goals is to make sure Floridians are well served by Federal agencies. From time to time, I will share accounts of how our office has helped a Floridian.

Recently our office received a call from a Florida family traveling in Nepal. The family had flown there to finalize the adoption of a Nepalese child. Due to unexpected political unrest in the country, the U.S. Embassy closed its doors as a security precaution and all official business matters were suspended, including the family's pending adoption.

Our office immediately contacted the State Department on the family's behalf. In response, the U.S. State Department coordinated with the U.S. Consul General in Nepal who reached out to the Florida family and 3 other families facing similar circumstances. With the Consul General's assistance, the adopting families were able to procure visas for the Nepali children and the families were safely escorted to the airport and are now in the United States.

If you are experiencing a problem with a federal agency, please contact our Orlando Regional Office by calling (407) 254-2573 to speak with a member of the Casework Department. The toll-free number for Florida residents is (866) 630-7106. To find out more about how my office can help you, go to my website at <http://lemieux.senate.gov> or stop by one of our scheduled Community Office Hours in your area.

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